

Application No.: 09/994,526  
Amendment Dated August 8, 2003  
Reply to Office Action dated April 9, 2003

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

**Listing of Claims:**

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1. (Original) A hollow rack shaft for a steering system, having:  
two rack teeth groups respectively formed by plastic working and located longitudinally apart from each other.
  
2. (Original) A hollow rack shaft according to Claim 1, wherein:  
said rack teeth groups are out of phase by an angle around the axis of said shaft.
  
3. (Currently Amended) A hollow rack shaft formed of one plate workpiece for a steering system, wherein:  
two rack teeth groups respectively formed by plastic working and located longitudinally apart ~~form~~from each other.  
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4. (Original) A hollow rack shaft according to Claim 3, wherein:  
said rack teeth groups are out of phase by an angle around the axis of said shaft.
  
5. (Original) A hollow rack shaft according to Claim 4, wherein:  
said rack teeth groups are sequentially formed by die forming.
  
6. (Original) A hollow rack shaft according to Claim 4, wherein:  
said rack teeth groups are simultaneously formed by die forming.
  
7. (Withdrawn) A method of manufacturing a hollow rack shaft for a steering system having two rack teeth groups, said groups being located longitudinally apart form each other and out of phase by an angle around the axis of said shaft, wherein:  
said shaft is formed of one plate workpiece having two areas; and

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the center lines in the longitudinal direction at said areas are offset corresponding to phase difference between said rack teeth groups.

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